

The Book of MICAH

Gloom Before Glory

I. Introduction

- A. As humans, we want the glory, and the victory, and the triumph, and the peace on earth, and the successful life, yet without dealing with the sin and judgment that must first prepare us for these things. There is no gain without pain, and there is no glory without gloom first. In other words, as Christ said, you must die before you can live (Matt 10:39).
- B. The same holds true for Israel. The prophet Micah is going to foretell the coming gloom upon Judah that must first come, and then will describe the coming glory that follows.

II. Introduction to the Book of Micah

- A. Author: Micah under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: 750 B.C. (Contemporary of Isaiah, Hosea & Amos)
- C. Theme: The coming destruction upon the kingdom of Judah because of the sins of its rulers, with emphasis upon a coming Ruler who will bring the entire nation back to righteousness.
- D. The significance of the name 'Micah': Means "who is like Jehovah?"
- E. Micah's audience: _____ primarily, as well as Samaria (N. Israel) – two centres of worship
- F. Seven chapters
- G. Key Verses:
 1. Micah 2:7 “do not my words do good to him that _____?”
 2. Micah 4:3 “they shall beat their _____ into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they _____ any more.”
 3. Micah 5:2 “out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from _____.”
 4. Micah 7:18 “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.”

III. Lesson - "Micah: Gloom Before Glory"

A. The Current Leadership (1:1-3:12)

1. Micah's call (1:1)
2. Micah's commission (1:2-4)
 - a. To reprove – God is a witness against you
 - b. To warn – that God HIMSELF was coming down to
 - 1) Destroy the high places – false strongholds, and false worship
 - 2) Melt the mountains
 - 3) Split the valleys even wider
 - 4) All describing the coming battle of _____
3. God's complaints (1:5-3:12):
 - a. All of God's judgments are because of SIN – from the top down!
 - b. With the Religious system (1:5-9)
 - c. This judgment cannot be stopped – is _____ (1:9)
 - d. With Judah's testimony to the rest of the world - basically it is "shot/ruined" (1:10-16). They all know about Israel's wickedness – especially since they know them as God's people!
 - e. NOTE: Someone called “The Glory of Israel” will come! Referring to the _____ (1:15,16)
 - f. Specific sins:
 - 1) Wicked imaginations (2:1)
 - 2) Violence (2:2)
 - 3) Hating rebuke (2:6)

- 4) Abused the Innocents (2:8-11) for personal gain
- 5) Loved and followed Liars (2:11) – notice the
“ _____ ”
- 6) These people attempted to cover their sins by stopping the preachers in the land (2:6), but God has fixed it so that you get what you ask for, and therefore, what you deserve (2:11).
 - g. NOTE: God’s word only does good to him who WANTS it (2:7; see 1Cor 1:18)
4. God’s Restoration of Israel (2:12,13) – of the Remnant, not all
 - a. One flock
 - b. The “Breaker” is Babylon – breaking Israel free from the Assyrians
5. More Sins of Leaders (3:1-8)
 - a. With the God-ordained authorities of the land (3:1-4) They hate the good, and love the evil (see Isaiah 5:11,12,20-23)
 - b. With the religious leaders - the _____ (3:5-12)
 - 1) They influence people to do wrong
 - 2) Give false hope crying "Peace"
 - 3) No word from God – no discernment – only spiritual darkness (3:6)
 - 4) They were preparing for war against their God
 - c. NOTE: Micah was nothing like the prophets of the day. Even though Micah is outnumbered and unpopular, he has no problem delivering God's message right to the "top" (3:8).
6. Micah’s Message (3:9-4:1)
 - a. To stubborn rebels
 - b. To people who built their nation with murder and with blood!
 - c. PRINCIPLE: All kingdom builders are bloody killers! Roman Catholic Church in the Dark Ages; Hitler; Mohammed.
 - d. People who only acted out of reward and for money – filthy lucre
 - 1) The leaders judge only for reward
 - 2) The priests teach for hire
 - 3) The prophets prophesy for money

PRINCIPLE: The love of money is the root of all the evil (I Tim 6:10). Note that not one of the above people are God-followers anymore. It is "Me first" and "forget the rest of the world".
 - e. People who acted pious and good
 - f. Warning that Zion/Jerusalem will be plowed and destroyed
 - g. But not forever (4:1)
7. A _____ was Coming (4:1-8)
 - a. A Mountain was coming – the _____ (Ps 48:1,2)
 - b. On top of all mountains
 - c. The Kingdom of Heaven on earth
 - d. Many nations will flow into it
 - e. The MESSIAH will judge and rebuke all nations – a world empire (4:3)
 - f. No more war in this kingdom (4:3; Cf Joel 3:10) The world at rest. Motto of the United Nations
 - g. No more religious confusion – people will have made up their minds (4:5)
 - h. No more judgments against Israel (4:6)
 - i. No more change (4:7)
 - j. “It” – the highest kingdom – will come (4:8)
8. Yet, Now is a Time of Judgment (4:9-13)
 - a. Of pains and travail until a new nation is born

- b. Into and back out of captivity in Babylon
- c. Even though your enemies will plunder you, you will conquer like a _____ (4:13)

B. The _____ (4:1-5:15)

1. In the midst of trouble, TWO Rulers shall be born (5:2-15)

a. The first Ruler (5:2-5) - A Judge

- 1) This Ruler will rule Israel, and be Deity in the flesh (from everlasting), and yet is called a "man" (5:5). Who will this be? (See Matt 2:6)
- 2) This is just one of 48 prophecies concerning the first advent of the Messiah, all which came true on the money (with odds of 1×10^{157} against them).
 - a) He will be _____ (Isa 53)
 - b) Born in Bethlehem (5:2) – HAS to be the Messiah because of the last two words!
 - c) Shall live forever
 - d) Shall rule
 - e) Will come at the right time (Gal 4:4) – just like when a baby is born
 - f) He will stand in the strength of _____
 - g) He will rule the whole world
 - h) He will defeat THE _____ – not just the nation of Assyria (5:5,6)

b. The second ruler (5:5-15)

- 1) Called " _____ " (5:5), and is connected with Nimrod (5:6). Who will this be?
 - a) An invader
 - b) Takes over the rich – palaces
 - c) Like Nimrod
 - d) Israel, as a nation, will keep their identity even though they are in a foreign nation, surrounded by heathen
 - e) Will be destroyed by God (5:8-15)
- 2) This ruler will ultimately be destroyed, along with all the sin of Israel (5:8-15).

C. God's Controversy With Judah (6:1-7:7)

- 1. God asks, "Where did I go wrong in all my dealings with you?" (6:1-5) - A review of "His Story"
- 2. Micah's reply as Israel (6:6-16)

a. There is no current sacrifice that can cure our sin, not even the sacrifice of our "firstborn" (6:7)

PRINCIPLE: It is going to take the sacrifice of *God's* own first born to clear their sins.

- b. We Judeans know what we ought to be doing (6:8), but we refuse.
- c. Therefore, we will reap what we have sowed (6:13-7:7)
 - 1) No satisfaction in anything that you do.
 - 2) No real prosperity
 - 3) No stature among the nations
 - 4) No more good men will be in thee
 - 5) No more friendships

D. Israel's Future Confidence (7:7-20)

- 1. Man's TASK: "look and live!" (7:7)
- 2. Even though Israel falls, she shall " _____ " (7:8)
- 3. Israel will yet "behold His righteousness" (7:9)
- 4. God will once again do wondrous things in the midst of Israel (7:15)

NOTE: All this is because of God's mercy in pardoning Israel's sin for His promises' sake made to Abraham.